KALININGRAD REGION FACES INEVITABLE DEMILITARIZATION

VILNIUS, June 5, ELTA - "The prospects of the demilitarization of the Kaliningrad Region are becoming apparent, although slowly but firmly", said Vytautas Landsbergis, the Chairman of the Homeland Union (Lithuanian Conservatives) in a statement on Monday.

Sergey Krylov, Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, has stated that if Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were to abandon their efforts in joining NATO, Russia would then withdraw its army from Kaliningrad. Landsbergis denounced this offer as another example of Russian expansion-like thinking in the same vein as Russia's request for the military use of Lithuania's air space.

YELTSIN ADVISER: ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST BALTIC STATES POSSIBLE. Abdualakh Mikitaev, head of the Russian Department of Citizenship, told journalists that economic sanctions against the Baltic states could be an acceptable means of protecting Russians living there. The presidential aide qualified his statement only by adding that sanctions should be designed so as not to injure those they would be intended to support, as had happened earlier when a Russian natural gas embargo led to unemployment for many Russian workers in the region. -- Scott Parrish, OMRI, Inc.

POPULARITY OF LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT AND PREMIER DROPS. An opinion poll conducted by the Lithuanian-British institute Baltic Studies showed sharp declines in the popularity of President Algirdas Brazauskas and Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius in May. In April, Brazauskas and Slezevicius were the second and seventh most popular politicians respectively; but last month, they dropped to fourth and eleventh places. The declines were attributed to unpopular measures introduced in May, including a 30% increase in electricity prices and planned hikes for natural gas heating. According to the poll, Seimas Deputy Chairman Egidius Bickauskas was Lithuania's most popular politician in May, followed by environmental activist Valdas Adamkus. -- Laura Belin, Copyright=A91995 Open Media Research Institute, Inc. All rights reserved.